

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 OIC-04 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00

COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 L-03

NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20

SPC-03 FEA-02 SAM-01 DLOS-06 SPM-01 CIEP-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SWF-02 FAA-00 DOTE-00 INT-08 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 AEC-11 AGR-20 NEA-10 DRC-01 /232 W

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R 251130Z FEB 74

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4239

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, XG

SUBJECT: ECE - SECOND SESSION OF SENIOR ADVISERS ON
ENVIRONMENT

SUMMARY: SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENT CONCLUDED 2ND
SESSION AND ADOPTED PROGRAM OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR
1974/75. SESSION PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW OF
WIDE-RANGING ACTIVITIES BY ECE BODIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL
FIELD BUT LITTLE SCOPE FOR NEW INITIATIVES. STUDY ON
WAYS AND MEANS OF PREPARING INVENTORY ON EXISTING
KNOWLEDGE OF LONG-RANGE TRANSMISSION OF SO2 TO BE UNDER-
TAKEN BY NORWEGIAN EXPERT WITH TENTATIVE OFFER OF
COLLABORATION BY USSR EXPERT. USSR AND BULGARIA DID NOT
FAVOR ECE ROLE ON BLACK SEA COOPERATION BUT ACCEPTED
US COMPROMISE THAT NEXT SESSION CONSIDER EXTENT TO WHICH
SENIOR ADVISERS MIGHT ASSIST IN SPONSORING AD HOC MEETINGS
OF RIPARIAN STATES REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF
EUROPEAN SEAS. SENIOR ADVISERS AGREED THAT INFORMAL
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CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN SECRETARIAT AND SEVERAL DELEGATIONS

SHOULD BE HELD IN ORDER STREAMLINE AND GIVE GREATER POLICY ORIENTATION TO NEXT SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (STANOVNIK) MADE OPENING STATEMENT CONCENTRATING HEAVILY ON ENERGY SITUATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM. WHILE CAREFULLY AVOIDING SUPPORT OF "NO GROWTH" PHILOSOPHY, HE ADVOCATED RE-DEFINITION OF ECE PRIORITIES AND ACTION IN LIGHT OF END OF ERA IN WHICH ECONOMIC GROWTH TOOK PRECEDENCE OVER ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND SOCIAL WELFARE.

2. STANOVNIK ADDED THAT PRESENT PROBLEMS IN ENERGY, FOOD, POPULATION, FINANCE, ECOLOGY, ARE ALL INTER-RELATED, ARE NOT TEMPORARY AND REQUIRE NEW APPROACHES. HE WELCOMED GROWING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS AS EVIDENCED BY OFFICIAL POLICY ACTIONS AND INCREASED NUMBER OF CONFERENCES IN THE REGION.

3. STANOVNIK STRESSED FOLLOWING PRIORITY AREAS IN ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD: ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC PLANNING; RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT; INTER-RELATION OF INCREASED EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMY IN USE OF RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS. HE APPEALED FOR MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY AND COOPERATION THROUGHOUT ECE IN CARRYING OUT THESE POLICIES.

4. MAURICE STRONG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNEP, GAVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF RECENT ACTIVITIES AND THEN REFERRED TO UNEP-ECE COOPERATION WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS CLOSE, PRAGMATIC, PRODUCTIVE AND FLEXIBLE. HE NOTED THAT COOPERATION INVOLVES EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION; COORDINATION OF LIAISON ACTIVITIES WITH GOVERNMENTS; ASSISTANCE IN CONDUCT OF ECE PROGRAMS OF INTEREST TO UNEP; ECE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CERTAIN GLOBAL UNEP PROGRAMS.

5. SENIOR ADVISERS REVIEWED REPORT OF WORKING PARTY ON AIR POLLUTION AND AGREED THAT DESULPHURIZATION SHOULD RECEIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION. USSR ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THIS ASPECT. NORWAY PROPOSED THAT LONG-RANGE TRANSMISSION OF SO₂ SHOULD BE STUDIED ON SYSTEMATIC BASIS, COMMENCING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH INVENTORY OF EMISSIONS IN THE ECE REGION. AGREED NEXT STEP IS TO STUDY WAYS AND MEANS OF PREPARING INVENTORY BEGINNING WITH REPORT ON EXISTING KNOWLEDGE. SUGGESTION THAT TWO EXPERTS (EAST AND WEST) BE APPOINTED TO STUDY THE QUESTION AND REPORT TO NEXT SESSION OF WORKING PARTY WAS ACCEPTED. NORWAY OFFERED TO PROVIDE SERVICES OF DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE FOR AIR RESEARCH AND USSR TENTATIVELY OFFERED TO PROVIDE AN EXPERT.

6. AGREED THAT SUBJECT OF NOISE SHOULD NOT BE ENTRUSTED TO WORKING PARTY ON AIR POLLUTION, BUT INCORPORATED IN OVER-ALL WORK PROGRAM.

7. AUSTRIA CIRCULATED A DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING UPON ECE GOVERNMENTS NOT TO USE THE ENERGY CRISIS AS AN EXCUSE FOR WEAKENING ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION OR ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS SHOWED THAT THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES WERE OPPOSED TO SUCH A RESOLUTION BUT WOULD ACCEPT APPROPRIATELY WORDED LANGUAGE IN FINAL REPORT. A WORKING GROUP WAS CONSTITUTED CONSISTING OF THE US, UK, NORWAY, GDR, USSR TO DEVELOP MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE. THE USSR INSISTED ON PHRASEOLOGY WHICH INDICATED THAT ALL ECE COUNTRIES WERE NOT SIMILARLY AFFECTED BY THE ENERGY PROBLEM. UK DELEGATE SPOKE OF A CHANGE IN COST/BENEFIT RATIOS AS A RESULT OF THE ENERGY SITUATION AND GAVE AS AN EXAMPLE THE POSSIBILITY THAT REMOVAL OF SULPHUR OXIDES FROM STACK EMISSIONS MIGHT NOW NO LONGER BE JUSTIFIED, AT LEAST IN THE SAME DEGREE AS IN THE PRE-CRISIS PERIOD SINCE THE ECONOMIES OF THE SITUATION HAD CHANGED. NORWEGIAN DELEGATE OBJECTED TO THIS ANALYSIS IN VIEW OF NORWAY'S CONCERN OVER THE EFFECT OF THE TRANSPORT OF SULPHUR OXIDES ON NORWEGIAN LAKES, RIVERS AND FORESTS. US DEL WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING CLEARER CONCEPTION OF WHAT UK DELEGATE HAD IN MIND. IT APPEARED UK SOUGHT MAINTAIN OPTION FOR CHANGES IN POLLUTION CONTROL STANDARDS IF DICTATED BY CIRCUMSTANCES. NORWEGIAN DEL THOUGHT UK MOTIVATED BY CURRENT CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THAT, FOR SHORT RUN AT LEAST, COSTS OF POLLUTION CONTROL MIGHT HAVE TO BE REDUCED TO MAINTAIN COMPETITIVENESS OF UK INDUSTRY. US AND AUSTRIAN DELS OBJECTED TO USE OF PHRASE "COSTS AND BENEFITS" AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 OIC-04 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00

COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 L-03

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USIA-15 AEC-11 AGR-20 NEA-10 DRC-01 /232 W

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ORIGINALLY PROPOSED IN TEXT BY UK. AUSTRIANS POINTED OUT THAT HEALTH EFFECTS OF POLLUTION NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO SUCH MEASUREMENT. UK AGREED TO ALTER PHRASE IN SECOND PARA TO READ "RELEVANT ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES". EASTERN EUROPEANS HELD LENGTHY CAUCUS BEFORE AGREEING TO TEXT. RESULTING PARAGRAPHS, WHICH RECEIVED SENIOR ADVISERS APPROVAL, DO NOT GO AS FAR AS US WOULD HAVE LIKED BUT WE BELIEVE IT IS REASONABLE FORMULATION UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. (TEXT BY SEPTEL).

8. SENIOR ADVISERS REVIEWED SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS, HELD IN 1973, AND APPROVED PREPARATORY WORK FOR FUTURE SEMINARS ON SOLID WASTE AND ON ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING.

8. LIVELY AND PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON ECE STUDIES CONCERNING PRODUCTION OF WASTE HEAT FROM THERMAL POWER PLANTS; NON-WASTE TECHNOLOGY; AND CONTROL OF DISCHARGES OF TOXIC CHEMICALS AND TOXIC WASTES.
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9. ADVISERS AGREED TO CONTINUE STUDIES ON ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF ADVISERS FELT THIS WAS BEYOND SCOPE OF THIS BODY. US REPRESENTATIVE GAVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EPA PUBLICATION "THE COST OF AIR POLLUTION".

10. OTHER TOPICS CONSIDERED INCLUDED ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURE; ESTABLISHING NATIONAL PROTECTION

STANDARDS FOR MAJOR WATER POLLUTANTS; ROLE OF TRANSPORT IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT; ENVIRONMENTAL TERMINOLOGY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS CONCERNING LARGE AREAS INCLUDING THE BLACK SEA.

11. A MAJOR POINT OF INTEREST CONCERNED THE BLACK SEA WITH TURKEY ADVOCATING COOPERATION OF RIPARIAN STATES WITHIN THE ECE FRAMEWORK. THE USSR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BULGARIA AND HUNGARY TOOK A RIGID POSITION, THAT COOPERATION SHOULD BE LIMITED SOLELY TO RIPARIAN STATES, WITH POLAND TAKING A MORE MODERATE LINE. ROMANIA REITERATED ITS OFFER TO HOST A CONFERENCE OF RIPARIAN STATES. THE US REP ADVOCATED A BROADER VIEW SINCE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF INLAND WATERS OFTEN AFFECT NON-RIPARIAN STATES. HE NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH COUNTRIES WITH COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS SHOULD REACH AGREEMENT, ECE CAN PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN PROVIDING A SETTING FOR COOPERATION, REPORTING AND STIMULATING ACTIVITY.

12. SINCE PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED COULD NOT AGREE ON WORDING FOR INCLUSION IN WORK PROGRAM, US SUGGESTED COMPROMISE LANGUAGE WHICH WAS ACCEPTED, THAT NEXT SESSION SHOULD CONSIDER EXTENT TO WHICH SENIOR ADVISERS MIGHT ASSIST IN SPONSORING AD HOC MEETINGS OF RIPARIAN STATES FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO EUROPEAN SEAS.

13. THE SENIOR ADVISERS REVIEWED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OTHER PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES THROUGH PRESENTATIONS BY EACH OF THE DIVISION DIRECTORS. THE ADVISERS WERE PRESENTED WITH TOO MUCH DIFFUSE INFORMATION WHILE LACKING A COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BODIES.

14. THE DRAFT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AD HOC MEETING IN DECEMBER 1973, WERE APPROVED (ENV/AC.1/2).

15. AN AMBITIOUS WORK PROGRAM FOR 1974-75 WAS ADOPTED WHICH FOLLOWS GENERAL LINE OF PROGRAM ADOPTED LAST YEAR. EMPHASIS PLACED ON EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION; COOPERATION WITHIN ECE AND WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS; AIR POLLUTION; DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION; ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN ENERGY FIELD; ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC PLANNING.

16. CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT EXPRESSED FOR TASK FORCE APPROACH

TO INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS WITH DESIGNATED COUNTRIES TAKING THE LEAD TO CONVENE MEETINGS, PREPARE DOCUMENTS AND REPORT BACK TO THE SENIOR ADVISERS. SINCE CONCEPT WAS NEW, AGREED THAT REPRESENTATIVES WOULD CONSULT GOVERNMENTS AND INFORM SECRETARIAT OF INTEREST IN SERVING ON TASK FORCES. SUBJECTS ARE DRAWN FROM ITEMS IN THE WORK PROGRAM.

17. SOVIET DEL (ANANICHEV) MADE FREQUENT, LENGTHY AND GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE INTERVENTIONS. HE URGED IN FUTURE A LESS AMBITIOUS PROGRAM, SHORTER AGENDA, LESS DOCUMENTATION, AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION, AND AGREEMENT ON PARAMETERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY RATHER THAN MODELS.

18. SENIOR ADVISERS AGREED THAT AGENDA FOR THIRD SESSION SHOULD BE STREAMLINED WITH FOCUS ON ONE OR TWO MAJOR POLICY ITEMS. DOCUMENTATION TO BE SEVERELY REDUCED AND SHORT, SUMMARY PAPERS TO BE PRESENTED BY SECRETARIAT. SECRETARIAT WILL CONSULT WITH OFFICERS AND ADVISERS OF SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES IN PREPARING AGENDA.

19. CHAIRMAN SPAANDER (NETHERLANDS) DID EXCELLENT JOB IN DEALING WITH COMPLEX AND VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTATION OF MEETING AND ADHERING TO AGENDA SCHEDULE. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLLUTION CONTROL, ECOLOGY, MEETING AGENDA, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA01216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740212/aaaaakvj.tel
Line Count: 299
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECE - SECOND SESSION OF SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENT
TAGS: SENV, PFOR, XG, ECE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005